



SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS
COMMUNICATIONS

NEWS

February 3, 2003

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Department of Aging Seeking Elder Rights Advocates

(Sedgwick County, Kansas) – Are you interested in being an advocate for elder rights and issues in Kansas? The Kansas Silver Haired Legislature may be the organization for you.

The Kansas Association of Area Agencies on Aging and the Kansas Department on Aging announce elections of Kansas Silver Haired Legislature members to be held on Tuesday, March 18, 2003, at sites across Kansas. The deadline for filing as a candidate will be Friday, February 28, 2003.

Any Kansan aged 60 and over that is a registered voter may file for candidacy. The term of office is two years and members may be re-elected for three successive terms. The Kansas Silver Haired Legislature is a unicameral legislature composed of 125 Representatives. All are over 60 and are elected from their county residence. The legislature provides an educational experience in the political process and provides an opportunity to identify priority concerns of Kansas senior citizens. The SHL develops bills and resolutions, which are presented to the Kansas Legislature and the Governor as recommendations for state policy.

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You can find more information about the Kansas Silver Haired Legislature at their web site <http://www.agingkansas.org/kdoa/legislative/silverhairlegi.htm>.

If you are interested in being a Silver Haired Legislator and representing the elders in your county, or if you want more information on what the Silver Haired Legislature is and does, please contact **Monica Cissell**, Central Plains AAA, 510 North Main, Rm 502, Wichita, KS 67203, 1-800-367-7298/316-383-7298, Fax 316-383-7757 or by email at mcissell@cpaaa.org to get your candidate registration forms, petitions and filing instructions.

"This is a great opportunity for Senior Citizens to help identify concerns they and others in the County have," said Commission Chairman Tim Norton. "I encourage any Senior Citizen in Sedgwick County that wants to make a difference to register."

After representatives are elected on March 18, 2003, Area Agencies on Aging will hold "Issue Forums" to identify the issues that Silver Haired Legislators may wish to bring to their October session in Topeka for consideration as bills and resolutions. Once the Silver Haired Legislature has passed its' bills and resolutions, they work to get them introduced and passed in the Kansas Legislature, thereby greatly affecting the quality of elder Kansans' lives.

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